



## BIOGRAPHY

# Gary Kelley

### BIRTHPLACE

Gary Kelley was born in Algona, Iowa, in 1945.

### CHILDHOOD

Mr. Kelley grew up in Algona, Iowa. He was drawing when he was three or four years old. His parents were supportive of his interest, and he had an uncle who encouraged him. He liked both comic books and art books and had access to art books at his uncle's house. He had a bike, a paper route and played in Little League baseball, but he also had an interest in art. He loved movies and going to the library on his bike with his dog. As a boy, he paid special attention to illustrations in books.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

He received an art degree from the University of Northern Iowa at Cedar Falls, and pursued studio art.

### POSITION

Gary Kelley is a full-time artist, but he also occasionally teaches at the university level, and each summer teaches at the Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida. Gary Kelley lives in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

### INSPIRATION/INFLUENCE

Mr. Kelley grew up looking at the illustrations of N.C. Wyeth, Howard Pyle, Maxfield Parrish, and the whole Brandywine School of art. Pablo Picasso is a favorite artist, and he loves Henri Matisse, Pierre Bonnard, and Henri Rousseau. He mentions that recently he learned that Vincent Van Gogh saw Howard Pyle's illustrations and said, "I hope I can paint like that someday." Kelley has been asked to contribute a page in a book for George Lucas, the writer and director of *Star Wars*, a book in which 100 different artists present their impression of *Star Wars*.

### ART FORM

Mr. Kelley uses a variety of art forms, with painting and printmaking among them. He suggests that in class, students could make pastel drawings or monotypes. With water soluble ink, you first paint on a piece of glass. Then you place the paper over the glass and rub it with a spoon. It is a pretty direct medium, Kelley says, and books are readily available to explain the technique.

### WEB SITE

**Note: Teachers should preview these sites; some artwork is not appropriate for all levels of students.**

Kelley's work can be found at these sites:

[www.richardsolomon.com/](http://www.richardsolomon.com/)

[www.illustrationacademy.com/SanFran/SF07web/SFgary/slideshow/Garyslides07.html](http://www.illustrationacademy.com/SanFran/SF07web/SFgary/slideshow/Garyslides07.html)

[www.illustrationacademy.com/GaryKelley.htm](http://www.illustrationacademy.com/GaryKelley.htm)

### ARTWORK DISPLAYED

- Barnes & Noble book stores, wall murals
- Macaroni Grill menus
- Museum of American Illustration at the Society of Illustrators, New York City
- Murals at University of Northern Iowa, in the connection between the UNI-dome and McLeod Center, which is visible from outside the buildings
- Mr. Kelley's work is represented in many of the most well-known magazines, such as *New Yorker*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Atlantic Monthly*